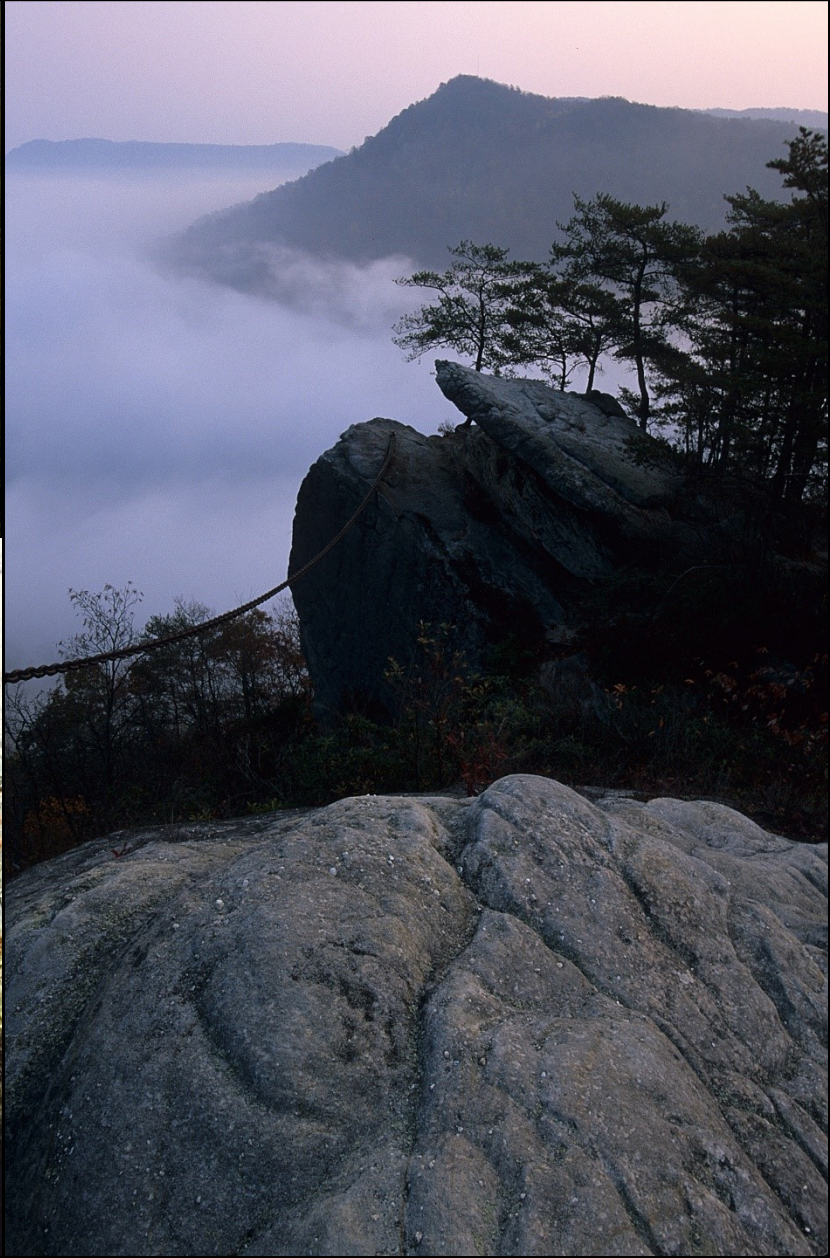


# KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND

## FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT





# Score one for the outdoors

**Coaching Legend & Outdoorsman  
DENNY CRUM**

**NCAA & NBA Star  
KYLE MACY**

**“Nature’s Finest”** license plates help buy and protect wilderness areas across our state. Rivers, woods, wetlands, parks - the places people treasure and wildlife call home. That’s a win for us all. Ask for yours and drive home your support for our great outdoors.

Explore more at [HeritageLand.Ky.Gov](http://HeritageLand.Ky.Gov)

Photos and design by Sherie Hopkin and Thomas Barnes 2017

## Next time you renew!

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

### Cover Photos -

- 2016 KHLCF Stewardship Award presentation to Shelby County Fiscal Court
- Blue Licks State Park in Nicholas County by Dr. Thomas G. Barnes from the book “Kentucky, Naturally”
  - Children at Floracliff Nature Sanctuary in Fayette County by WKU PBS
  - Chained Rock at Pine Mountain State Park by Barry Howard

# Table of Contents

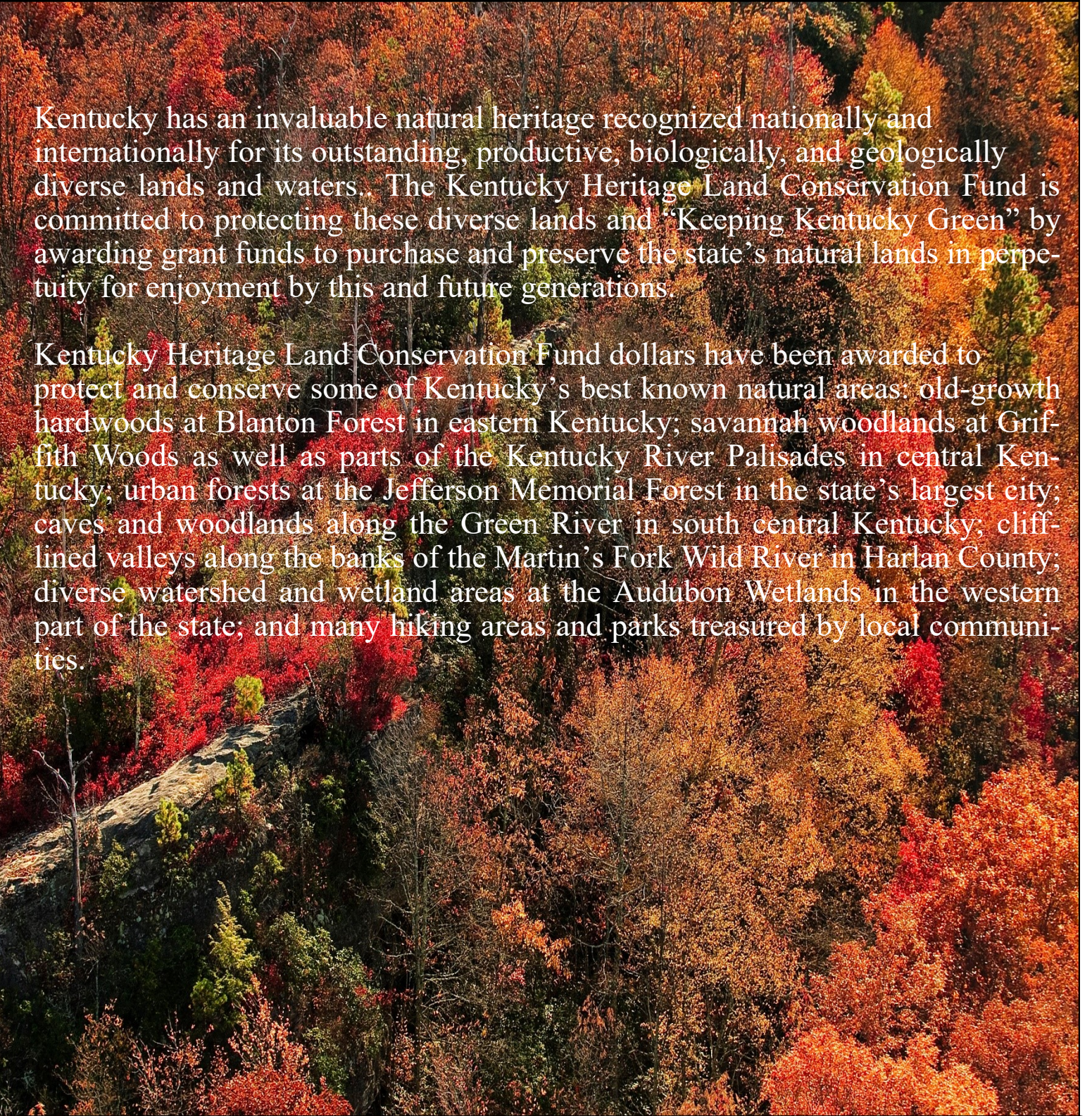
<b>Message from KHLCF Chairman Dr. Richard Kessler</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The KHLCF Mission</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Why Conserve Kentucky?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>KHLCF Accomplishments</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Annual KHLCF Stewardship Award</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>KHLCF Approved Projects in FY 2017</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>KHLCF Financial Information</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Impact of KHLCF Projects on Kentucky's Economy</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Properties Protected by KHLCF in FY 2017</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Properties Protected by KHLCF 1994 - 2017</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>KHLCF Related Article</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>KHLCF Board Members and Staff</b>	<b>19</b>

**Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund web-site:**  
**<http://heritageland.ky.gov>**

**Find us on Facebook:**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyHeritageLands>**



## KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND



Kentucky has an invaluable natural heritage recognized nationally and internationally for its outstanding, productive, biologically, and geologically diverse lands and waters. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund is committed to protecting these diverse lands and “Keeping Kentucky Green” by awarding grant funds to purchase and preserve the state’s natural lands in perpetuity for enjoyment by this and future generations.

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund dollars have been awarded to protect and conserve some of Kentucky’s best known natural areas: old-growth hardwoods at Blanton Forest in eastern Kentucky; savannah woodlands at Griffith Woods as well as parts of the Kentucky River Palisades in central Kentucky; urban forests at the Jefferson Memorial Forest in the state’s largest city; caves and woodlands along the Green River in south central Kentucky; cliff-lined valleys along the banks of the Martin’s Fork Wild River in Harlan County; diverse watershed and wetland areas at the Audubon Wetlands in the western part of the state; and many hiking areas and parks treasured by local communities.

- **Bad Branch State Nature Preserve in Letcher County by Dr. Thomas G. Barnes from the book “Kentucky, Naturally”**



## Letter from Dr. Richard K. Kessler, KHLCF Chairman

In 2017 the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) continued to meet its designated statutory obligation of providing funding for the acquisition and management of numerous projects throughout the Commonwealth. These lands conserve important scenic areas and endangered species but also provide for environmental education and outdoor recreation and help manage them for these purposes. Not only does this work meet the statutory requirements of the Fund, it continues to meet the demands of the citizens of the Commonwealth for conservation programming and more access to lands and waters for public use and enjoyment.

Studies and surveys continue demonstrate how important such programming continues to be for our citizenry. Over 20 new projects were awarded this year and the vast majority of them support some form of public use from hiking, kayaking and wildlife viewing to fishing and hunting. While studies have shown KHLCF projects generate \$8 in goods and services for every \$1 spent, how can we really put a value on a quiet hike, a float trip with friends and family in a beautiful, clean environment or the experience of fishing or hunting with a young person?

Many projects also leverage funds from other sources like federal funds or the 50% cost-share required of our private partners including Bernheim Forest and The Nature Conservancy in 2017. Our partnerships (in both acquisition and management) and another clean audit further illustrate that we are good stewards of the funds we receive and disburse. We also recognize that it is important that citizens and legislators know the benefits we provide and because of this we have made a concerted effort this year to better market “Nature’s Finest” throughout the Commonwealth.

Because we are the only designated state source of such funding it makes the solvency of our program all the more important in meeting these important demands. We continue to ask Kentuckians to voice their support for this critical work by purchasing “Nature’s Finest” license plates, whose revenue was protected in the last budget, and expressing these views to their legislators. We ask legislators and administration to respond to the needs of our citizens and our Commonwealth—needs that this Fund continues to responsibly meet—by avoiding the significant cuts to the HLCF program experienced over the past two budget cycles.

It is worth noting that this year marked the retirement of one of our founding members, Horace Brown, who represented the Kentucky Environmental Education Council as former Chairman of that organization. Horace’s expertise and love for the work of this program is indicative of what each of our non-state representatives bring to the table from their respective organizations. When these members work with our agency partners/representatives it makes for a very dynamic, functional and effective group!

In closing, it is bittersweet that after much thought and consideration, I have decided to step down as KHLCF Chair, a position I have held since 2013. I look forward to continuing to serve the KHLCF Board over my next term and am very thankful for the opportunity to continue serving as one of the voluntary, non-agency members of the Board representing the Kentucky Academy of Science. Given his background as a former KHLCF staff member and his extensive conservation programming experience, I am confident that newly appointed KHLCF Chair Zeb Weese, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Director, will be able to move the KHLCF program forward into FY 2018 beyond.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard K. Kessler".

Richard K. Kessler  
KHLCF Board Chair, 2013-2017



# Mission

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) is the primary source of state funding for the purchase of natural areas and is committed to protecting and conserving our Commonwealth's precious natural areas for enjoyment by this and future generations. ***Each property funded by the KHLCF is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement or deed restriction.***

The fund was established by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Act in 1990. This legislation established priorities for property acquisitions including:

- natural areas that possess unique features such as habitat for rare and endangered species;
- areas important to migratory birds;
- areas that perform important natural functions subject to alteration or loss;
- areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education.

The fund is managed by the 12-member Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board appointed by the governor. Revenue for the fund comes from the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental fines, sale of Kentucky nature license plates and interest.

By statute the Environmental Education Council receives \$150,000 of environmental fines each year for environmental education programs and the Department for Energy Development and Independence receives \$400,000 of unmined minerals tax for the purpose of public education of coal-related issues. These funds are not part of the KHLCF program, but the KHLCF handles their initial financial transfers administratively. This is reflected in the *Financial Information* section of this report.

Organizationally and administratively, the KHLCF is attached to the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission in the Cabinet for Energy and Environment.

## **KHLCF funds are distributed quarterly as follows by statute:**

**10% Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**

**10% Department of Parks**

**10% Division of Forestry**

**10% Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission**

**10% Kentucky Wild Rivers Program**

**50% Local Governments, State Colleges, Universities, Nonprofit Trust Organizations, and Other Public Agencies**

To receive program funding, eligible agencies must submit an application identifying the priority the project addresses; an enumeration of costs; a budget indicating how at least 10 percent of the acquisition cost will be spent for management; and a preliminary resource management plan for the project. During FY 2016 the board held four regularly scheduled quarterly meetings to consider applications for funding.

If the project is approved, each agency has two years to acquire the property unless an extension to purchase is submitted for approval by the board. Agencies have two and one - half years after the property is purchased to submit a final resource management plan for review and approval.



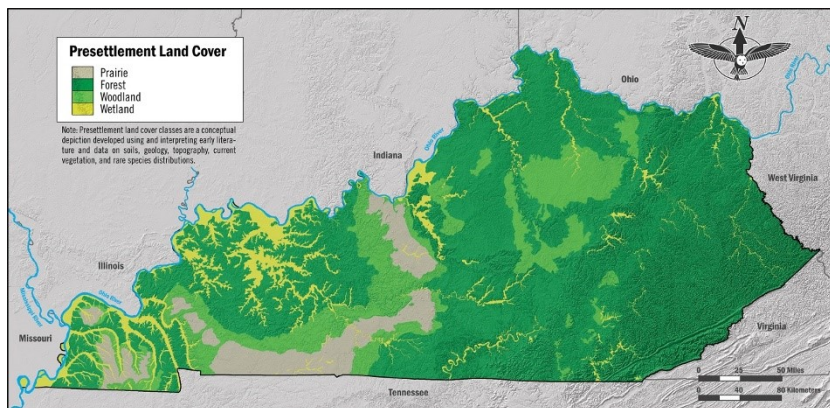
# Why Conserve Kentucky?

The goals of the KHLCF are simple: protect some of Kentucky's remaining natural lands, and provide appropriate public access to as many of them as possible. The KHLCF defines "conservation" broadly. Our sites range from hiking spots, to hunting areas, to environmental education sites, to endangered species habitat.

The importance of conservation to Kentucky's tourism economy is often under-appreciated. The most recent data from the US Census Bureau indicates that *in Kentucky alone* over **\$773 million is spent annually on wild-life watching** by over **1.3 million people**. That includes money spent on equipment, lodging, food, and other trip related expenses. KHLCF sites are important destinations for many of these tourists.

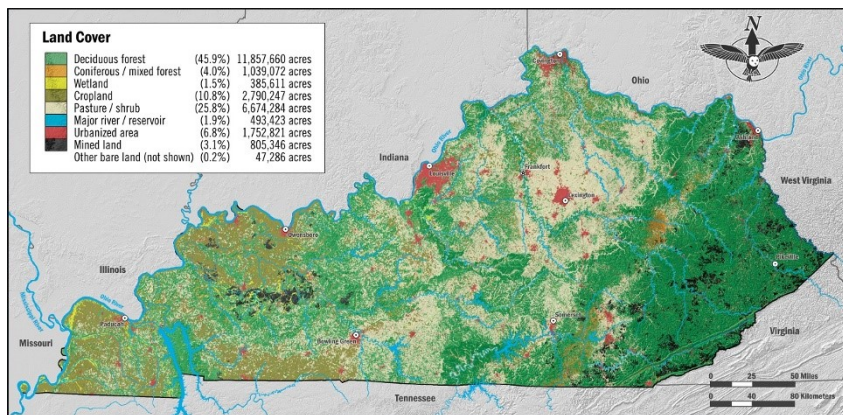
The full report may be viewed here: <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-ky.pdf>

**Kentucky Then:** When the earliest European settlers came to Kentucky it was truly a wilderness. The

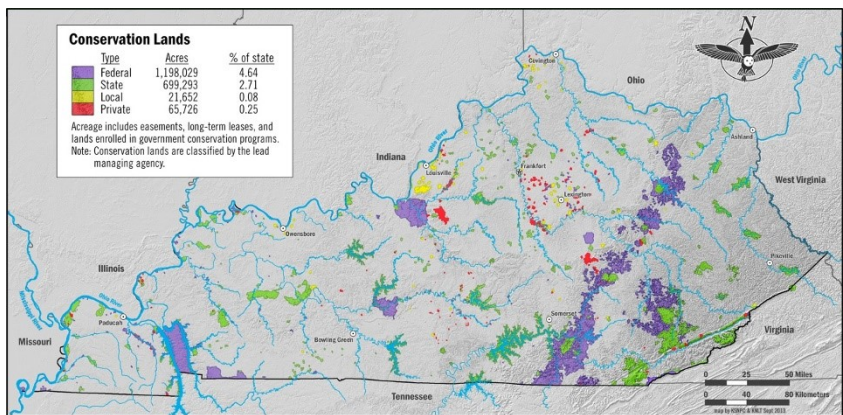


mountains of Eastern Kentucky held massive tulip poplars and chestnuts. The extensive canebreaks of Central Kentucky covered countless acres. In Western Kentucky tall-grass prairies blended with vast wetlands. Wildlife was abundant throughout the state. One goal of the KHLCF is to conserve some of the natural landscape that shaped those earliest pioneers and allow future generations to experience them.

**Kentucky Now:** The vast majority of the Commonwealth has been altered significantly since those pioneer days. However, pockets of natural areas still exist. Also, much of the altered land can be successful replanted and reclaimed for passive outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. The KHLCF works with a wide range of partners to enhance the conservation attributes of land throughout Kentucky.



**Conserving Kentucky:** Kentucky has approximately 25 million acres. Estimates on how much is managed for conservation vary from 4% to 7%, depending on how broadly "conservation" is defined. That includes land protected by nonprofit organizations such as the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust and Bernheim Forest, as well as government entities such as state and local parks and nature preserves. Therefore, a very small percentage of Kentucky's land is in public hands or conserved by other groups.



**The KHLCF assists conservation organizations to conserve and manage natural land for the benefit of future generations.**

Maps developed by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission with the best available data.



# KHLCF Accomplishments

Since 1995, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board has played an integral part in helping state agencies, local governments, and state colleges and universities protect and conserve 89,477.71 acres of Kentucky's natural areas and habitats. To date, the fund has provided financial support, in whole or in part, to acquire 154 sites in 67 counties. There have been 77,423.95 acres conserved by state agencies and / or multiple-agency partnerships, 10,068.057 acres conserved by local governments and conservation districts, nonprofits and 1,985.70 acres conserved by universities.

Summary of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Efforts as of 1995 - June 2017			
Applicant	Number of Projects	Acreage Conserved	Funding*
<b>Fish and Wildlife Resources</b>	8	40,701.18	\$ 7,915,255.59
<b>Division of Forestry</b>	5	3,166.56	\$ 4,650,787.85
<b>State Nature Preserves Commission</b>	44	10,313.73	\$ 8,670,397.42
<b>Department of Parks</b>	14	3,248.55	\$ 5,280,890.76
<b>Wild Rivers Program</b>	12	5,212.84	\$ 7,345,597.02
<b>Multiple Agency Partners</b>	6	14,781.09	\$ 11,673,455.86
<b>County Governments</b>	31	6,892.68	\$ 12,748,795.09
<b>City Governments</b>	10	542.55	\$ 1,709,119.25
<b>Metro Governments</b>	7	993.24	\$ 3,268,294.45
<b>Colleges/Universities</b>	7	1,985.70	\$ 4,735,308.15
<b>Conservation Districts</b>	8	1,484.44	\$ 4,589,972.66
<b>Non-Profit</b>	2	155.147	\$ 405,059.00
<b>Totals:</b>	154	89,477.71	\$ 72,992,933.10
<i>*Includes both acquisition and management costs.</i>			





# Annual KHLCF Stewardship Award

The KHLCF Board was happy to award the FY2017 Stewardship Award to the Shelby County Parks Department for their work at both Clear Creek Park and Shelby Trails. This sites provide passive outdoor recreation to citizens, such as birdwatching and hiking, and conserve important habitat in one of Kentucky's most rapidly developing areas. In addition, Shelby Trails has had extensive grass-land habitat restoration in cooperation with the local Conservation

District, and an archery range. Clear Creek Greenway is a linear trail connecting neighborhoods to Clear Creek Lake.



**L-R: Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton, KHLCF Board Member Horace Brown, Shelby County Parks Shawn Pickens and Clay Cottongim, Representative Rob Rothenburger, EEC Secretary Charles Snively.**





# FY 2017 Approved Projects

A total of 26 project applications were reviewed by the KHLCF Board in FY 2017, and all 26 were approved at some level of funding. Funding awards totaling \$6,704,385 were approved for the proposed acquisition and management of more than 4,836 acres located throughout the state. Local governments/university/nonprofit projects were approved in Jefferson, Bullitt., Hart, McCreary, Campbell and Clark counties. State agency projects were approved in Bullitt, Franklin, Harlan, McCreary, Bell, Graves, McCreary, Boyle, Nicholas and Hickman counties. Funds came from current year receipts plus funds from previously approved projects that could not be acquired. All funding awarded was for land purchase and associated pre-acquisition costs (appraisals, title, and survey work). Management activities were funded separately for these new projects.

GRANTS AWARDED	COUNTY	AWARD
<b><u>Competitive (local governments, land trusts, etc.)</u></b>		
Western Kentucky University—Vinegar Ridge	Hart	\$260,000
The Nature Conservancy—Big South Fork—Stewart Tract (50% match)	McCreary	\$163,000
Future Fund—Floyd’s Fork—Glory Road Tract(50% match)	Bullitt	\$475,000
Bernheim Forest—Bernheim—Simon Tract(50% match)	Bullitt	\$706,500
Louisville Metro—McNeely Lake Conservation Easement	Jefferson	\$30,000
Campbell County Conservation District—Hawthorne Crossing—Richie Tract	Campbell	\$50,000
Clark County Fiscal Court—Lower Howards Creek - Rice Tract Mgmt	Clark	\$50,650
<b>Total Competitive</b>		<b>\$ 1,735,150</b>
<b><u>State Agency Grants</u></b>		
<b>Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission</b>		
Apple Valley—Hall Tract (50% match)	Bullitt	\$310,500
Rockcress Hills—Gatewood Tract	Franklin	\$98,000
Blanton Forest—Reardon Tract	Harlan	\$56,000
Pine Mtn Area Land Management	Bell	\$40,000
Grassland & Pollinator Habitat Managemnet	Various	\$80,000
Terrapin Creek—Weatherly Tract	Graves	\$42,500
Biological Inventory and Database Management Funds	Various	\$250,000
Three Ponds—Black Tract	Hickman	\$1,280,000
<b>Total Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission</b>		<b>\$ 2,157,000</b>
<b>Department of Parks</b>		
Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail—Additional Funds	Bell, Pike, Harlan	\$850,000
Perryville—Graves Tract	Boyle	\$215,000
Blue Licks—Kingsolver Tract mgmt	Nicholas	\$12,000
<b>Total Department of Parks</b>		<b>\$1,077,000</b>
<b>Wild Rivers Program</b>		
Habitat and Recreational Land Management	Various	\$500,000
Cumberland River Marsh & Adams Tracts	Whitley	\$30,000
Little South Fork—MCB	McCreary	\$51,800
<b>Total Wild River Program</b>		<b>\$ 581,800</b>
<b>Division of Forestry</b>		
Tygarts SF—McGlone Tract	Carter	\$203,500
Knobs State Forest—Kuhns/KNLT Addition	Bullitt	\$825,000
<b>Total Division of Forestry</b>		<b>\$1,028,500</b>
<b>Total State Agencies</b>		<b>\$ 4,844,300</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 6,579,450</b>
KHLCF Annual Report		



## FY 2017 Approved Projects

A total of 17 project applications were reviewed by the KHLCF Board in FY 2017. Funding awards totaling \$6,579,450 were approved for the proposed acquisition and management of more than 4,836.93 acres located throughout the state. Local governments/university projects were approved in Jefferson, Bullitt., Hart, McCreary, Campbell and Clark counties. State agency projects were approved in Bullitt, Franklin, Harlan, McCreary, Bell, Graves, McCreary, Boyle, Nicholas and Hickman

### Local Governments, Universities, and Nonprofit Land Trusts

#### **Bernheim Forest—Simon Tract—Bullitt County**

This tract would connect Bernheim Forest with Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve and Apple Valley State Nature Preserve. The site is mature forest, and also has excellent habitat for Kentucky gladeceess, a federally endangered species found nowhere in the world except for Bullitt and Jefferson Counties. As a non-profit, Bernheim will provide 50% of the eventual expenses from other sources and the KHLCF would provide the other 50%.



Kentucky Gladeceess from the book *Kentucky, Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* by Thomas G. Barnes

#### **McNeely Lake Conservation Easement —Louisville Metro Government:**

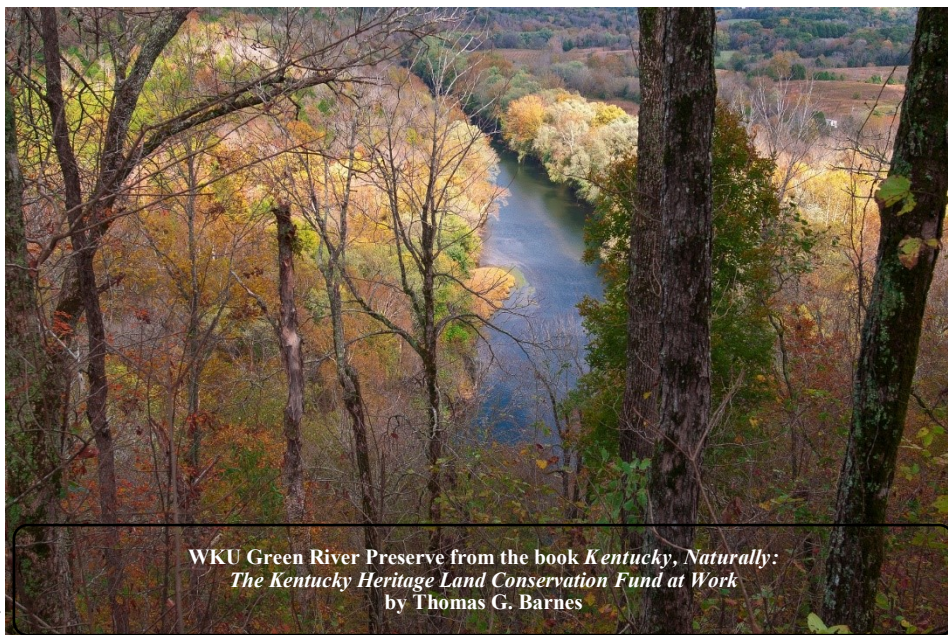
Louisville Metro Parks will donate a 25 acre conservation easement to be held by the KHLCF, to facilitate the conservation of Kentucky gladeceess habitat. Kentucky State Nature Preserves will assist in habitat management. The KHLCF is only funding the necessary surveys and easement costs, Metro Parks already owns the property.

#### **Hawthorne Crossing—Richie Addition—Campbell County Conservation District**

The KHLCF protects over 130 acres at Hawthorne Crossing. This small addition would create improved access for hiking and potentially paddling on the Licking River.

#### **Vinegar Ridge Trail-Western Kentucky University Green River Preserve—Hart County**

Vinegar Ridge is a 90 acre Tract situated on the south side of the Green River downstream from WKU's Upper Green River Preserve, and it is a significant extension of the preserve. The property contains the entrance to Vinegar Ridge Cave, which is a hydrological part of the Suds Springs drainage basin, one of the nine known sites for the federally endangered Kentucky Cave Shrimp. This site is also an important habitat for Indiana bats and gray bats as well as providing further critical breeding and migratory habitat for neotropical songbirds along the Green River Corridor. This extension will provide increased opportunities for educational experiences and research on the unique and highly diverse biota of this region of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



WKU Green River Preserve from the book *Kentucky, Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* by Thomas G. Barnes



# FY 2017 Approved Projects

## **Big South Fork—Stewart Tract—The Nature Conservancy—McCreary County:**

This is a forest block adjacent to the Big South Fork Recreation Area with frontage on one of Kentucky's most scenic Wild Rivers. The Big South Fork is a destination for paddlers and hikers from around the region.

## **Floyd's Fork—Glory Road Tract—Future Fund—Bullitt County**

This tract will provide paddling access to Floyd's Fork, hiking trails, and has potential habitat for Kentucky gladeceess habitat. While not contiguous, it is near the KHLCF projects at Pope Lick Park and Peterson Forest in Jefferson County, and the many tracts managed by 21st Century Parks as part of the Louisville Loop.

## **Kentucky State Nature Preserves**

### **Apple Valley State Nature Preserve —Hall Tract– Bullitt County**

This addition to the existing Apple Valley SNP will conserve additional Kentucky gladeceess habitat. The goal is to open a hiking trail begin at Apple Valley, and eventually end at Bernheim Forest several miles to the south. This is part of the same complex as the Bernheim Forest—Simon Tract referenced earlier and several miles south of the Floyd's Fork project and southeast of the McNeely Lake project. The goal of the KSNP is to conserve these known gladeceess sites and reintroduce gladeceess to appropriate habitat, and work towards eventually removing the species from the federal Endangered Species List.

### **Rockcress Hills State Nature Preserve—Gatewood Tract– Franklin County**

Braun's rock cress, another federally endangered species, is managed and conserved at this preserve. This tract will create better access, and eventually allow a hiking trail to the Kentucky River.

*Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve—staff photo*



### **Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve— Reardon Tract– Harlan County**

Kentucky's largest old growth forest will grow a little larger with this tract, conserving more of the view from the Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail.

### **Terrapin Creek State Nature Preserve— Weatherly Tract-Graves County**

Several fishes in the Kentucky section of Terrapin Creek have been found nowhere else in the state, including the blacktail redhorse, least madtom, brighteye darter, and the firebelly darter. This addition will conserve an 80 acre tract along the Tennessee border.

### **Three Ponds State Nature Preserve—Black Tract– Hickman County**

Kentucky Nature Preserves manages bottomland hardwood forest and cypress swamp with frontage on the Mississippi River. This addition will create public access to the river, and conserve additional bottomland hardwood forest along Obion Creek.

*Black Tract—Three Ponds State Nature Preserve—staff photo*





# FY 2017 Approved Projects

## Kentucky State Parks

### **Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail Additional Tracts —Pike, Bell, Harlan Counties**

One of the KHLCF's priority conservation areas is Pine Mountain, which is one of the most beautiful and diverse areas in Kentucky. For over a decade, the KHLCF has worked with Kentucky State Parks to complete the Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail, which will eventually allow adventurers to hike and backpack over 120 miles, from Cumberland Gap National Park on the Tennessee border to Breaks Interstate Park on the Virginia line. This project ties into the proposed Great Eastern Trail, a companion to the familiar Appalachian Trail. This award will help fund over 4,000 acres of conservation land on Pine Mountain and help this project become a reality.



*Pine Mountain —photo by Barry Howard.*

### **Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site—Graves Tract-Boyle County**

This important addition to the park contains a Confederate burial site, as well as conserves portions of Doctor's Creek. This project is in cooperation with the national Civil War Trust, which works to conserve the nation's most significant battlefield sites.

## Kentucky Wild Rivers Program

### **Cumberland River—Marsh Creek/Adams Tracts**

These are small forested inholdings surrounded by the Daniel Boone National Forest. Kentucky Wild Rivers sites conserve the Commonwealth's most significant rivers, while allowing paddling, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Hunting is also permitted on most sites where safe and practicable.

### **Little South Fork—MBC Tract**

*Knobs State Forest—staff photo*



This is a small forested inholding surrounded by the Little South Fork Wild River Conservation Area.

## Division of Forestry

### **Knobs State Forest— Kuhns/KNLT Addition**

This over 500 acre tract will double the size of the state forest and wildlife management area, and is an important part of the Fort Knox-to-Bernheim wildlife corridor.



# Financial Information

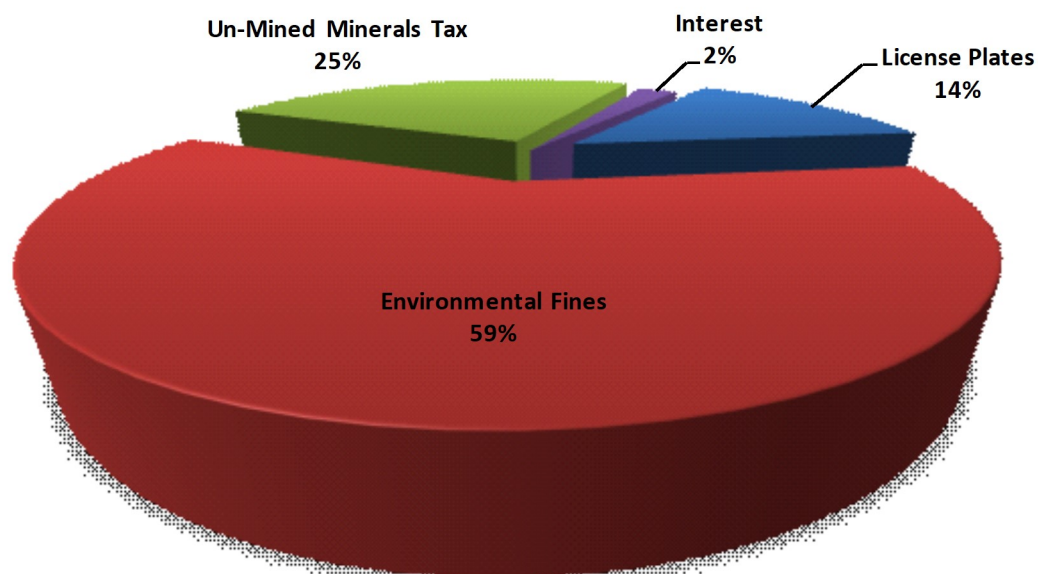
Funding for the KHLCF is generated from the sale of three nature license plates, the state portion of unmined mineral tax on coal, environmental fines, and interest income. For FY 2017 receipts were \$2,453,054.48, which does not include the \$550,000 the KHLCF transfers administratively to KEEC and DEDI by statute but is not part of the KHLCF program. The KEEC receives the first \$150,000 collected from environmental fines and DEDI receives the first \$400,000 of unmined minerals taxes and the KHLCF receives the remainder from both sources for natural areas land acquisition.

In FY 2017 the current state budget swept \$2,500,000 from the KHLCF into the state General Fund, therefore creating a balance of -\$46,945.52 for FY 2017. Awards made on pages 10-12 were made from a combination of revenue held over from previous years and funds returned from withdrawn projects.

The total revenue for FY 2017 was approximately \$1,421,152 less than FY 2016 levels. As shown on the page 14 table, revenue generated from unmined mineral tax revenue decreased by \$961,266, environmental fines decreased by roughly \$484,070 and license plate sales revenue increased; revenue generated from nature license plates sales increased by \$91,188 from FY 2016, while interest income decreased by \$67,004.

The table also demonstrates the volatility and unpredictability of our revenue sources from year to year. During the last five years, revenue from fines has seen a steady increase for four years and a sharp decrease in FY 2014, while revenues from unmined minerals has increased from FY 2009 to FY 2012, but decreased in FY 2013 to FY 2017.

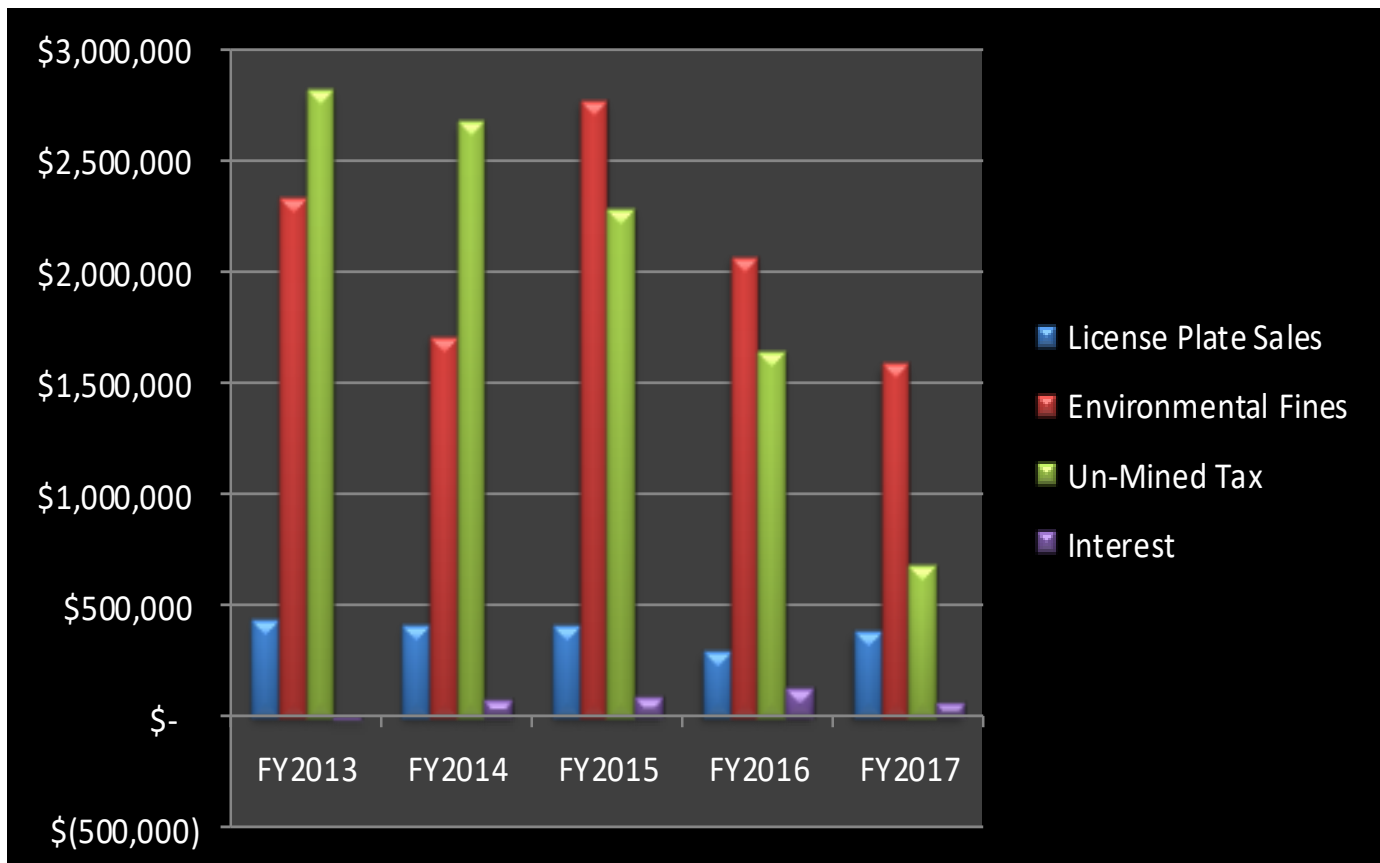
**FY 2017 Revenue By Source**





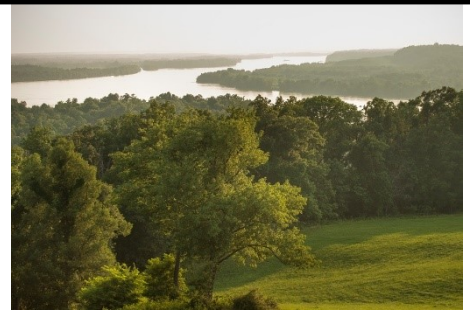
# KHLCF Revenue

<b>Revenue By Source 5 Year Comparison</b>					
<b>5-Year Receipts by Source</b>	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>License Plates</b>	\$431,100.00	\$412,370.00	\$402,118.00	\$288,182.00	\$379,370.00
<b>Environmental Fines</b>	\$2,332,183.04	\$1,709,372.74	\$2,773,395.70	\$2,070,526.75	\$1,586,456.81
<b>Un-Mined Tax</b>	\$2,820,757.75	\$2,676,911.60	\$2,287,058.13	\$1,637,571.04	\$676,304.78
<b>Other Receipts</b>	0	\$71.00	\$945.00		25.00
<b>Interest</b>	(\$14,432.57)	\$71,525.70	\$85,541.34	\$126,301.59	\$59,297.89
<b>Statutory transfers to KEEC and DEDI</b>	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)
<b>Transfer to General Fund</b>			(\$5,000,000.00)	(\$3,000,000.00)	(\$2,500,000.00)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,019,608.00</b>	<b>\$4,320,251.00</b>	<b>(\$941.83)</b>	<b>\$572,581.38</b>	<b>(\$46,945.52)</b>





# Kentucky's Return on Investment in the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund



TERRY COOK, DCRJSR\*, MARK GODFREY

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) has conserved nearly 90,000 acres in 125 sites across 67 counties. The Trust for Public Land conducted research summarizing and quantifying the economic benefits of KHLCF investments to local communities between 1998 and 2011.

Projects made possible by the KHLCF support hundreds of thousands of jobs across Kentucky. Additionally, for every \$1 invested in land and water conservation, \$8 in natural goods and services is returned to the Commonwealth of Kentucky according to The Trust for Public Land.

## Realizing a Valuable Return on Investment: Natural Goods and Services

Natural lands and water resources conserved by KHLCF provide a host of economic benefits that have a measurable impact to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its communities. They include services such as drinking water protection, flood control, wildlife habitat, and air pollution removal.

- The Trust for Public Land conducted an analysis of the economic value of natural goods and services provided by KHLCF protected lands and waters between 1998 and 2011. For every \$1 of KHLCF funds invested, \$8 in economic benefits is returned to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>
- The results are consistent with similar studies conducted by The Trust for Public Land in over a dozen states that found comparable returns on investment in land and water conservation programs.

In addition to providing natural goods and services, KHLCF contributes to the Kentucky economy in terms of generating jobs and strengthening local economies, providing clean water, and boosting the bottom line

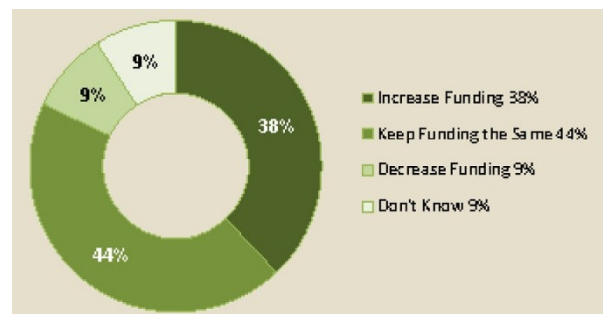
for local governments.

## Generating Jobs and Strengthening Local Economies

The parks, trails, state forests, wildlife management areas, and nature preserves conserved with KHLCF funding supports the outdoor recreation and tourism industries.

- Outdoor recreation is a major component of Kentucky's economy. Each year it generates \$8.4 billion in consumer spending, \$552 million in state and local tax revenue, 105,000 jobs, and \$2.5 billion in wages and salaries in the state.<sup>2</sup>
- The tourism and travel industry contributed over \$12.2 billion to Kentucky's economy in 2012. Visitors supported 174,000 jobs in local communities accounting for \$2.7 billion in wages and salaries for Kentuckians. State and local governments received \$1.23 billion in tax revenue

3

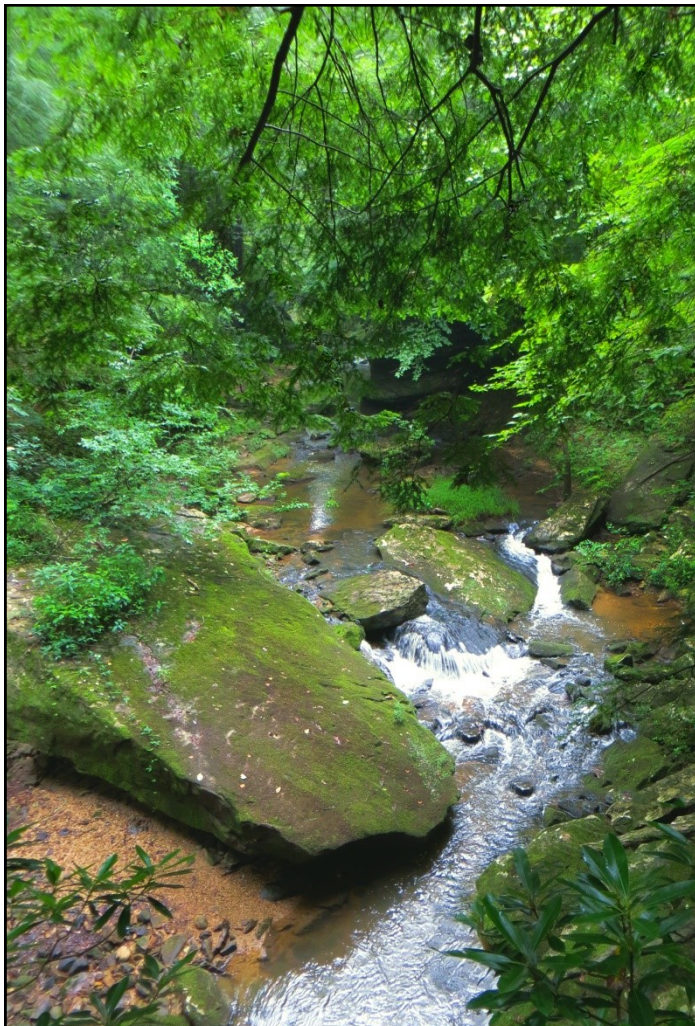




# FY 2017 Protected Properties

In FY 2017 a total of 379.16 acres of Kentucky's natural lands in six different counties were conserved with funding assistance from the KHLCF.

FY 2016 KHLCF ACQUISITIONS			
PROJECT	AGENCY	COUNTY	ACRES
Blue Licks State Park—Kingsolver Tract	PARKS	Nicholas	16.74
Rock Creek—Ball Tract	Wild Rivers	McCreary	90
Hi Lewis Barrens State Nature Preserve—Carmical Tract	KSNPC	Harlan	123.65
Mt. Victory Addition	KSNPC	Pulaski	11.77
Floracliff– Trails End Tract	Nonprofit	Fayette	60
Lower Howard's Creek—Rice Tract	Clark County	Clark	77
Pine Mountain State Park—Chained Rock	PARKS	Bell	N/A
<b>Total:</b>			<b>379.16</b>



- Rockcastle Wild River —Photo by Joe Dietz



# KHLCF Protected Properties

## 1995—June 30, 2017

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Allen	Carpenter Cave CE	KSNPC	14.30
Ballard	Axe Lake Swamp SNP	KSNPC	311.99
Ballard	Ballard WMA—Harper Tract	KDFWR	256
Ballard	Boatwright WMA	KDFWR	1,177.00
Barren	Brigadoon SNP	KSNPC	91.88
Barren	Mutter's Cave CE	KSNPC	108.28
Bell	Kentucky Ridge SF/WMA	KDF and KDFWR	3,782.38
Bell, Pike, Harlan, Letcher	Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail	Kentucky State Parks	553.48
Boone	Boone County Cliffs	Boone County Fiscal Court	75.42
Boone	Big Bone Lick State Park—Piner Tract	Kentucky State Parks	236
Boone	Dinsmore Woods	Boone County Fiscal Court	104.52
Boone	Gunpowder Creek	Boone County Fiscal Court	125.98
Boyle	Perryville Battlefield	Kentucky State Parks	75.81
Breckinridge	Wildlife Education Park	Breckinridge County Fiscal Court	25.19
Breckinridge	Yellowbank WMA	KDFWR	1,332.31
Bullitt	Apple Valley Glades SNP	KSNPC	69.23
Bullitt	Knobs State Forest	KDF	1,539.59
Bullitt	Bernheim Forest—Cave Hollow Tract	Bernheim	95.147
Calloway	Blood River SNP	KSNPC	192.56
Calloway	Fort Heiman	Calloway County Fiscal Court	167.00
Campbell	Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area	Campbell Conservation District	134.69
Campbell	St. Anne Woods and Wetlands	Campbell Conservation District	165.00
Carter	Carter Caves State Park	Kentucky State Parks	107.54
Carter	Olive Hill Reservoir	City of Olive Hill	214.64
Carter	Tygart State Forest	KDF	255.03
Christian	Bob Overton Cave	KSNPC	54.82
Christian, Caldwell	Pennyryle State Forest	KDF	200.57
Clark	Civil War Earthenworks Fort	Clark County Fiscal Court	25.38
Clark	Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve	Clark County Fiscal Court	423.59
Daviess	Adkisson Greenbelt Trail	City of Owensboro	25.00
Daviess	Yellow Creek Park	Daviess County Fiscal Court	1.43
Estill	Lily Mountain Nature Preserve	Estill County Conservation District	561.15
Fayette	Raven Run Nature Sanctuary	LFUCG	353.38
Fayette	Floracliff Trails End	Floracliff	60
Fleming	Clay Wildlife WMA	KDFWR	811.03
Fleming	Park Lake Mountain Nature Preserve	Fleming County Fiscal Court	821.13
Fleming	Short's Goldenrod SNP	KSNPC	209.89
Franklin	Cove Springs Park	City of Frankfort	96.99
Franklin	Feindel CE	KSNPC	65.74
Franklin	Julian Savanna SNP	KSNPC	42.43
Franklin	River Cliffs SNP	KSNPC	210.19
Franklin	Rockcress Hills SNP	KSNPC	66.66
Franklin	Swallowfield—Baxley CE	KSNPC	64.35
Garrard	Tom Dorman SNP	KSNPC	802.95



# KHLCF Protected Properties

## 1995—June 30, 2017

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Graves	Terrapin Creek SNP	KSNPC	98.60
Grayson	Lone Oak Glade	KSNPC	33.53
Green	Glenview Nature Preserve	Green County Fiscal Court	168.07
Green	Wyatt Jeffries Woods	Green County Fiscal Court	57.15
Hardin	Eastview Barrens SNP	KSNPC	119.14
Hardin	Jim Scudder SNP	KSNPC	172.66
Hardin	Springhouse Barrens SNP	KSNPC	55.78
Harlan	Blanton Forest SNP	KSNPC	1631.88
Harlan	Hi Lewis Barrens SNP	KSNPC	425.65
Harlan	James E. Bickford SNP	KSNPC	347.84
Harlan	Kentonia State Forest	KDF	762.03
Harlan	Martin's Fork SNA	Wild Rivers	1,624.41
Harlan	Stone Mountain SNA	KSNPC/KDFWR	1,025.49
Harrison	Griffith Woods WMA	KDFWR	391.37
Hart	Davis Bend	Wild Rivers	165.00
Hart	Frenchman's Knob	Hart County Fiscal Court	64.00
Hart	Hidden River Cave	City of Horse Cave	9.759
Hart	Rush Island Bottoms	Wild Rivers	160.00
Hart	Green River Biological Reserve	Western Kentucky University	1,524.67
Henderson	Green River State Forest	KDF	409.34
Henderson	John James Audubon State Park	Kentucky State Parks	663.83
Henry	KSU Environmental Education and Research Center	Kentucky State University	305.99
Henry, Owen	Kentucky River WMA	KDFWR	533.28
Hickman	Obion Creek and Murphy's Pond SNP	KSNPC	198.72
Hickman	Three Ponds SNP	KSNPC	528.25
Hickman, Fulton	Obion Creek and Latourneau Woods WMA	KDFWR	1,640.19
Jefferson	Jefferson Memorial Forest additions	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	625.09
Jefferson	Peterson Forest	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	98.13
Jefferson	Pope Lick Park (Tyler Schooling tract)	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	214.65
Jefferson	Putney Pond and Woodlands	City of Prospect	24.31
Jefferson	Jefferson Memorial Forest	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	61
Jessamine	Camp Nelson	Jessamine County Fiscal Court	58.53
Jessamine	Jessamine Creek Gorge	Jessamine County Fiscal Court	268.77
Kenton	Morningview	Kenton County Conservation District	222.66
Larue	LaRue County Environmental Education Center	Larue County Fiscal Court	191.00
Larue	Lincoln Boyhood Home	Larue County Fiscal Court	224.97
Larue	Thompson Creek Glade SNP	KSNPC	105.26
Laurel	Rockcastle Wild River Corridor - Sinking Creek	Wild Rivers	300.97
Laurel	Whitley Branch Preservation	City of London	75.57
Letcher	Bad Branch SNP	KSNPC	1,192.94
Lewis	Crooked Creek SNP	KSNPC	693.47
Lincoln	Bouteloua Barrens SNP	KSNPC	261.00



# KHLCF Protected Properties

## 1995—June 30, 2017

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Lincoln	William Whitley House	Kentucky State Parks	80.24
Livingston	Livingston County WMA	Livingston County Fiscal Court	2429.92
Logan	Baker Natural Area	Logan Conservation District	66.15
Marion	Marion County WMA	KDFWR, Marion County, KDF	1,293.20
McCracken	Perkins Creek Nature Preserve	City of Paducah	80.27
McCreary	Cumberland Falls State Park	Kentucky State Parks	119.00
Menifee	Broke Leg Falls	Menifee County Fiscal Court	14.82
Metcalfe	Dry Fork Gorge	Metcalfe County Fiscal Court	79.97
Metcalfe, Cumberland	Marrowbone State Forest*	KDF and KDFWR	1,955.47
Monroe	Old Mulkey Meeting House	Kentucky State Parks	19.02
Muhlenberg, Hopkins, Ohio	Peabody WMA*	KDFWR	34,560.00
Nelson	Town Creek Greenway -Tannery Hill	City of Bardstown	16.012
Ohio	Highview Hill	Ohio County Fiscal Court	256.71
Ohio	Ohio County Nature Park	Ohio County Fiscal Court	191.25
Oldham	Morgan Conservation Park	Oldham County Fiscal Court	227.59
Powell	Natural Bridge State Park	Kentucky State Parks	471.00
Powell	Pilot Knob SNP	Powell County Fiscal Court	515.93
Pulaski	Buck Creek Preserve	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	35.26
Pulaski	Hazeldell Meadow	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	39.35
Pulaski	Frances J. Palk SNP	KSNPC	238.66
Pulaski	William H Martin Wildlife and Watershed Conservation Area	Wild Rivers	458.96
Robertson, Nicholas, Fleming	Blue Licks State Park*	Kentucky State Parks	922.19
Shelby	Clear Creek Park Greenway	Shelby County Fiscal Court	27.02
Shelby	Shelby Trails Park Addition	Shelby County Fiscal Court	75.00
Simpson	Flat Rock Glade SNP	KSNPC	29.97
Taylor	Clay Hill Memorial Forest	Campbellsville University	103.00
Taylor	Tebbs Bend	Taylor County Fiscal Court	172.14
Union, Crittenden	Big Rivers WMA/SF*	KDFWR and KDF	6,724.00
Warren	Cave Springs	Western KY University	2.01
Warren	Lost River Cave	Warren County Fiscal Court	2.25
Wayne, McCreary	Little South Fork Corridor - Burnett WWCA	Wild Rivers	2202.24
Whitley	Archer-Benge SNP*	KSNPC	1,863.00
Wolfe	Red Wild River Corridor	Wild Rivers	301.26
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,477.71</b>

\*Other funding sources used as match \*\*All costs associated with these projects are for the protection, not purchase, of land.  
Examples are conservation easements, surveys, mineral estates.

### Acronym Legend:

Wildlife Management Area—WMA

Conservation easement—CE

State Nature Preserve—SNP

Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area—WWCA

State Forest—SF



# KHLCF Related Article

## Providing Clean Water

Kentucky's forests and open lands play a vital role in the provision of clean drinking water supplies. They reduce the costs of treating wastewater and stormwater, as well as the costs of treating drinking water supplies.

- A study conducted in 2009 by the northern Kentucky Sanitation District No. 1 found that 'green' controls, such as protecting watershed lands, provide substantial improvements in water quality relative to their cost compared to traditional stormwater treatment controls to correct sewer overflows (i.e., pipe replacement and water treatment plants).<sup>4</sup>

- Costs of treating drinking water supplies have been found to be directly related to the amount of tree cover in the area. Specifically, costs are higher when there is less tree cover. An area with only 10 percent forested land had annual treatment costs of \$923,000 compared to \$297,000 for an area with 60 percent tree cover.<sup>5</sup>

## Boosting the Bottom Line for Local Governments

Land and water conservation provides a fiscal benefit to both residents and municipalities through cost savings on infrastructure and services.

- Studies of Kentucky counties consistently show that unlike residential land, working and open lands generate more in public revenues than they receive back in public services. For example, for every \$1 paid in local taxes, working and open land in five Kentucky counties (i.e., Campbell, Kenton, Lexington-Fayette, Oldham, and Shelby) required an average of \$0.53 in services compared to an average of \$1.26 in services for the average home.<sup>6</sup>

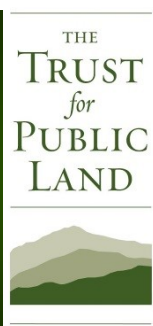
- The national median across 151 communities over 25 years is that for every \$1 paid in local taxes, farmland and open space require \$0.35 in services compared to \$1.16 in services for the average home.<sup>7</sup>



KENTUCKY DIVISION OF WATER PHOTO

## End notes

1. This analysis is based on the best available data at the time of publication. Ohio data were utilized for the underlying carbon storage and sequestration volumes for cropland, pasture, and grassland. For a full methodology description see "The Economic Benefits of Clean Ohio Fund Conservation" report available at <http://www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-clean-ohio-fund-conservation-report>. Sources: Molly Ingraham and Shonda Gilliland Foster, "The Value of Ecosystem Services Provided by the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System in the Contiguous U.S." (*Ecological Economics*, 67, 2008, pp. 608-618); Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, *Technical Support Document: - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866* (revised November 2013); M. Jarecki and L. Rattan, "Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Rates in Two Long-Term No-Till Experiments in Ohio" (*Soil Science* 170, no. 4, 2005, pp. 280-291); J. Lewandrowski, M. Peters, C. Jones, R. House, M. Sperow, M. Eve, and K. Paustian, *Economics of Sequestering Carbon in the U.S. Agricultural Sector* (USDA Economic Research Service, Technical Bulletin No. TB-1909, 2004); D. J. Nowak and E.J. Greenfield, *Urban and Community Forests of the South Central East Region*. (USDA Forest Service General Technical Report NRS-58, 2009); P. Puget and R. Lal, "Soil organic carbon and nitrogen in a Mollisol in central Ohio as affected by tillage and land use" (*Soil & Tillage Research* 80, no. 1-2, 2005, pp. 201-213); The Trust for Public Land, *Conservation Almanac* (Available at <http://www.conservation Almanac.org>); U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Grassland Reserve Program Rental Rates" (accessed February 26, 2014, [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2\\_026909.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_026909.pdf)); U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service, "Data and Statistics" (accessed February 26, 2014, [http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/?sector\\_desc=ECONOMICS&commodity\\_desc=RENT&agg\\_level\\_desc=COUNTY&source\\_desc=SURVEY](http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/?sector_desc=ECONOMICS&commodity_desc=RENT&agg_level_desc=COUNTY&source_desc=SURVEY)); and R. T. Woodward and Y. S. Wu, "The Economic Value of Wetland Services: A Meta-Analysis" (*Ecological Economics* 37, 2001, pp. 257-270).
2. Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy: Kentucky* (2012).
3. Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, *Economic Impact of Kentucky's Travel and Tourism Industry - 2011 and 2012* (Prepared by CERTEC, Inc. May 2013).
4. Third Rock Consultants, LLC, *Kentucky Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy* (Produced in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, 2010).
5. Ibid.
6. American Farmland Trust, *Cost of Community Services Fact Sheet* (Northampton, Massachusetts: Farmland Information Center, 2010).
7. Ibid.
- \* KY State Tree, Tulip Poplar. By Dcjrjr/Gallery of Duke Forest Plants from Wikimedia Commons. [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liriodendron\\_tulipifera\\_tulip\\_close.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liriodendron_tulipifera_tulip_close.jpg)



For additional information, contact:

The Trust for Public Land  
(615) 715-6870



Prepared by The Trust for Public Land with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Conserve Kentucky.

# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board Members

The 12-member board was established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1994. Five members are appointed from state government agencies, one each from the Department for Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Department of Parks, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and the Environmental Education Council. Seven members are private citizens selected by the governor from nominations by conservation groups, the Kentucky Academy of Science, agricultural interests and natural resources interests. The citizen members do not receive pay for attending quarterly board meetings and serving on the active committees of the board. Board committees review applications and visit project sites, review and monitor site stewardship, and provide advice and recommendations on issues coming before the board.

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board is staffed by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. Comments regarding this report should be addressed to:

## Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

801 Teton Trail  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: 502-573-2886  
[www.heritageland.ky.gov](http://www.heritageland.ky.gov)

**Alexander Barnett**  
Farm Bureau  
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

**Hugh Archer - KHLCF Stewardship Committee Chair**  
Land Acquisition Expert  
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

**Billie Hardin**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Chair, Kentucky Environmental Education Council

**Allen Luttrell**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Commissioner, Department for Natural Resources

**Zeb Weese**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Director, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

**Greg Johnson**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

**Franklin D. Fitzpatrick - KHLCF Treasurer**  
Kentucky Chapter of the Nature Conservancy  
Term Expires: July 15, 2017

**Dr. Richard K. Kessler - KHLCF Board Chair**  
Kentucky Academy of Science  
Term Expires: July 15, 2017

**George "Bill" Little, Jr. - KHLCF Board Vice-Chair**  
Environmental Organizations Representative  
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

**Dr. Albert Meier - KHLCF Project Committee Chair**  
Kentucky Academy of Science  
Term Expires: July 15, 2016

**Dr. Paul M. Sheets**  
League of Kentucky Sportsmen  
Term Expires: July 15, 2019

**Donnie Holland**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Commissioner, Department of Parks

### KHLCF Staff:

**Tara Littlefield - Environmental Scientist IV**

**Stephanie Ellis - Internal Policy Analyst III**

**Eddie Roberts- Property Management Program Analyst II**

**Anna Girard Fletcher - General Counsel**





- Clay Wildlife Management Area in Fleming County by Dr. Thomas G. Barnes from the book “Kentucky, Naturally”